



Exit Glacier Visitor Experience and Resource Protection Plan

Volume 2, Issue 3

September 2002

This newsletter reports on continuing work with the Exit Glacier Visitor Experience and Resource Protection Plan. It provides a summary of the comments we received during public scoping, including responses to questionnaires in the August 2001 and May 2002 newsletters, and comments received at public meetings in May and June 2002. Scoping is an open process conducted early to determine the scope of environmental issues and alternatives to be addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement, identify other important issues, and eliminate issues that are not relevant.

Although we received fewer comments than anticipated, we are pleased with the thoughtful comments and helpful suggestions that were sent. The planning team would like to thank everyone who participated in public meetings or who has otherwise communicated with us regarding this planning process. Your comments are helping us develop a more comprehensive and complete plan. We hope this newsletter summarizes your ideas accurately and highlights the significant issues relevant to the management of Exit Glacier.

We encourage your continuing involvement during the next phase of this planning process: the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. We look forward to your feedback on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement when it becomes available in summer 2003.



The planning team discusses management alternatives at Exit Glacier

How to Stay Involved and Informed

Please stay involved by reading the DEIS when it becomes available and by providing your comments in writing or verbally at public meetings which will take place in summer 2003. For additional information about the EIS process, to be added to our mailing list or to obtain copies of the DEIS, write to:

Kenai Fjords National Park
Attn: EG Plan
P.O. Box 1727
Seward, AK 99664

Or send an email message to: kefj_eg_plan@nps.gov.

You can visit our web site at <http://www.nps.gov/kefj/verp.htm> where you can view project information and download copies of this and previous newsletters. We will post the DEIS on our website when it becomes available, as well as a schedule of public meetings for the DEIS.

We are interested in learning what format you would prefer for reviewing the DEIS when it becomes available. Please let us know by returning the bottom portion of this page to the address listed above. Or let us know via email. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you will review the DEIS online.

I would like to review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement:

☐ by receiving a hardcopy document. ☐ by receiving the document on CD. ☐ online, please send only notice of availability via email.

(Please print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

Summary of Preliminary Alternatives

Several preliminary alternatives were presented in the May 2002 newsletter and were discussed at public meetings in May and June. These alternatives are summarized here:

No-Action Alternative

This alternative would continue in the current management direction, guided by the 1995 Development Concept Plan. All existing facilities would be maintained at current levels. No new services or facilities would be provided to support increasing levels of use.

Alternative A

The focus of this alternative would be on education, interpretation, and non-motorized recreation. Development would be limited to replacement of existing structures. Alternative transportation to bring visitors to Exit Glacier would be encouraged. In winter there would be increased opportunities for non-motorized recreation.

Alternative B

This alternative promotes increasing infrastructure (such as a lodge, food service, trails, and campgrounds) to accommodate a greater number of visitors and recreational activities year-round. Access would be maximized in both summer and winter for a wide range of motorized and non-motorized uses.

Alternative C

This concept would return the area to the way it was 15 years ago before the road and vehicle bridge were constructed, with emphasis on ecosystem restoration and imposing fewer regulations on visitor use. Motorized vehicle access would be blocked in summer and winter at the bridge. All structures, except a year-round backcountry visitor contact station, would be removed.

Alternative D

This alternative would emphasize increased accessibility to a wide variety of environments through a network of new trails and amenities to support small groups. In winter, the focus would be on non-motorized use of groomed trails and availability of rustic overnight accommodations.